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SUBJECT: DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING - October 4, 2005

SUMMARY: Discussion of violence in Iraq, out-of-country voting, coalition withdrawal, and the Talabani-Ja'fari dispute were the major editorial themes of Iraqi, Arabic language websites on October 4, 2005. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES

[1A.](#) "Iraq . An Open Field for Violence"
(Editorial by "Oman" - Iraq 4 All News -
<http://iraq4all.org/viewnews.php?id=10185>)

"It seems that what is taking place in Iraq is an endless tide of violence that could develop into civil war if differences among political parties are not resolved. Recently, disputes between President Al-Talabani and Prime Minister Al-Ja'fari have surfaced; the President criticized the Prime Minister for his unilateral decision-making and his failure to commit to agreements between Shiite and Kurdish parties, which formed the basis for the transitional government. Taking into consideration that security continues to deteriorate, the situation appears to be quite serious-to the extent that many U.S. military officials have explicitly pointed out the difficulty of the situation in Iraq.

"Based on Arab and international indifference towards Iraq, and the inability of U.S. forces to provide security to Iraqis, anything seems possible, including civil war. No one can predict what the consequences would mean for the unity of Iraq.

"The sectarian model continues to create many problems among Iraqis. Iraq needs all of its citizens to unite and look beyond temporary benefits. Iraq is going through a serious political phase; it will be threatened by division if politicians, clerics, and other effective powers do not deal with the situation that has developed since the fall of the former regime.

"The situation in Iraq is difficult. Iraqis are exposed to death from violence and instability. The situation does not provide any chance for a stable government, nor does it allow for reconstruction to commence.

"Against such a tragic scene, a serious stand is required, first by the Iraqi people, and second by occupation forces, by announcing an official timetable for withdrawal that could create an air of optimism among Iraqis. But if this situation continues, then the unity and independence of Iraq is in danger."

[1B.](#) "Beware, Fareed Ayar"
(Editorial by Tahseen Al-Munthiri - Sawt Al-Iraq - "Voice of Iraq" - <http://www.sotaliraq.com/articles-iraq/nieews.php?id=16718>)

"No one knows the standards that the U.N. used to choose seven electoral commissioners from among 1,500 candidates to make decisions in the most critical sector of the current Iraqi scene. They have the right to approve political entities, election results, appeals, monitors, etc . etc.

"The commission's law of formation, No. 92, is simple. It does not suffer from the complications of the commission itself. The commission is simply an entity similar to the council of ministers, with the same authority to manipulate the political process. Two names have emerged since the formation of the commission; they are the head of the commission, Abdul Hussein Al-Hindawi, and the commission's media spokesman, Fareed Ayar. Mr. Ayar has established relationships with the media; created a dispute with the head of the commission; demanded this man's resignation;

refuted his own [Ayar's] statements; announced that he is stepping down from the post of media spokesman; returned as the media expert; and is currently working to oppose Iraqi expatriates' participation in the elections. He achieved great success in ruling out their participation in the referendum and is now leading a campaign to prevent Iraqis abroad from voting in the elections late this year. "It seems that significant changes have taken place at the commission lately. Adil Al-Lami has emerged as the commission's director general. He told the Al-A'lam channel that the commission is nothing more than an executive body that executes the National Assembly's decisions. This statement encouraged Iraqis abroad to address the Assembly to regain their right to participate in next December's election. They were quite optimistic about the results before Mr. Ayar returned to declare the difficulty of holding elections abroad. He offered four options for including Iraqi expatriates; the first, second, and fourth options included financial, security, and other difficulties that Ayar was happy to point out, while the third option was simply to postpone their participation until further notice, which only God Almighty and Mr. Ayar know about.

"The statements of the media expert were full of contradictions. On one hand he complained of the small numbers that turned out for elections compared to the total number of Iraqis residing abroad, while on the other hand he said no surveys were available on the number of Iraqi expatriates. Then he said elections could be held at Iraqi embassies but that it would be hard to provide for their security, as if these embassies were located in Fallujah, Latifiya, or Tal-Afar.

"Mr. Ayar said the commission had sent out memoranda to the National Assembly, president, and prime minister explaining the difficulties of holding elections abroad, but he did not mention whether a request was made to cancel the process, which I believe was the only content of these memoranda.

"I wonder about the motivation behind Mr. Ayar's grudge against Iraqis abroad and why he insists on depriving them of the opportunity to participate in the political process. Is it to please a particular side, or is it a personal thing? Only God knows."

C. "Occupation Forces' Withdrawal from Iraq Is Near"
(Editorial by Hussein Ali Ghalib - Sawt Al-Iraq - "Voice of Iraq" - <http://www.sotaliraq.com/articles-iraq/nieuws.php?id=16719>)

"The departure of U.S. and British military forces is undoubtedly very near. Political analysts, parties, clerics, and British and American media do not have anything to talk about except Iraq-the huge losses and the cost of this war. In America, demonstrations were bigger than anticipated; the organizers did not expect them to spread to several states. In Britain, the same thing happened.

"U.S. congressmen opposed [President] George Bush's policy. Some of them are trying to amass their efforts to force the U.S. army to return home and to put President Bush in a difficult situation. He would have to prove his decision regarding the war [the decision to go to war] was successful from one perspective, but unsuccessful from other perspectives. He successfully toppled Saddam Hussein's regime; on the other hand, the U.S. army suffered many casualties.

"The plans and agendas regarding Iraqi policy failed. This was recognized by all American officials, decision makers in the White House, and think tanks. The British stance is represented by the public's outrage, which the British government cannot ignore. British officials will announce a specific timetable for the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq. We only need to wait and follow the news to discover the date of American and British withdrawal from Iraq, and note it as one of the key events in contemporary Iraqi history."

D. "Storm-Swept Power-Sharing Alliances"
(Editorial by Majid Lafta Al `Abaidi - Al-Rafidayn - "The Two Rivers" - http://www.alrafidayn.com/Story/News/N03_10_1_9.html)

"Iraqi President Jalal Al-Talabani's statements were not new to the Iraqi political audience, which was already aware of the contents of the Kurdistan Coalition's two memos submitted to Prime Minister Ibrahim Al-Ja'fari and the United Iraqi Alliance. Both memos criticized the head of the government for unilateral, dictatorial actions and for failing to achieve any progress regarding the Kirkuk issue; they also criticized him for failing to implement a sectarian power-sharing agreement. This will allow him to control 100% of the system instead of 50%; it allows the prime minister and his ministers to fire their political opponents-from deputy ministers to basic laborers-and to

replace them with members of the prime minister's party.

"On the other hand, the president turned his honorific post into an executive one. This angered the prime minister, who goes behind [the president's] back to prevent him from controlling his job. An observer of the two leaders (the prime minister and the president) when they attended the funeral of Saudi King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz and the U.N. General Assembly meetings could see that Iraq has two heads competing with one another to monopolize leadership.

"Mr. Talabani's statements criticizing Dr. Al-Ja'fari and his government are `mercy bullets.' He seeks to form political alliances in preparation for the parliamentary elections, which will sort out new groups in the Iraqi political arena."

KHALILZAD